



ANNUAL REVIEW

2014

Celebrating Twenty Years of *MIRACLES*

Miracles was born from a hug between a Christian and a Muslim at the height of the Bosnian war—in March 1993. Its founders, Theo Ellert and Matthew Procter, were on a humanitarian aid trip to the devastated city of Mostar just as the cruel 'ethnic cleansing' had come to the graveyards.



Left is Theo's painting of a little boy whose family had just been 'ethnically cleansed' from their home - with only the possessions they could carry—and driven through the freezing night in open-topped lorries to a disused power station where the aid group arrived with food and blankets ... and a little pink fluffy pig.



Right is the city of Mostar just a few months later. It had been almost completely destroyed but somehow still retained its ancient majesty and captivating beauty.

Determined to help the tragic Bosnian people irrespective of their origins, *The Miracles Charity* came into being in October the following year under Charity Registration 1041449 '*For the Relief of Suffering and Poverty*' - both in Bosnia and the United Kingdom'.

By early the following year several aid programmes had been initiated in Bosnia while in the UK an unexpected number of cases were turning to *Miracles* for help with problems brought about by extreme poverty coupled with sickness—often terminal.



One of our first major donations came from Mohammed El Fayed in response to a Shock Issue in the Press about a young mum with cancer whose family—including severely disabled twins—were being evicted from their home due to arrears in mortgage payments.

More and more cases followed and *Miracles* soon became the first point of call for CABs, Hospitals and Social Workers seeking help with their many cases in urgent need for whom no other help source was available. To answer those calls an appeal for *Miracles' Rapid Response Crisis Fund* was launched on which so many aid agencies now rely.

Believing in miracles was the underlying power behind the charity's success—to provide Hope as an alternative to Despair. Now, twenty years on, that power is as strong as ever.

For further information on all *Miracles'* work please read on ...
If you would like more copies of this Report contact us at the address below:

MIRACLES P.O. Box 3003 * Littlehampton * West Sussex * BN16 1SY * Telephone: 01903 775673
miracles@fastnet.co.uk www.miraclesthecharity.org

THE YEAR'S STAR EVENTS

***Miracles* 'At Home' at The Angmering-on-Sea Beach House**

A long weekend at Caroline Bond's beautiful Beach House was recently bought by young Paula Gil-Alberdi who took their prize on a beautiful weekend in March. On the Saturday they opened the House for small party of their friends and local *Miracles* supporters. Once again The Haciendas provided the wines and Caroline's team provided the catering for what was a charming local event in the most breathtaking venue. And the weather, too, was an added bonus with some of our younger guests even attempting a paddle!



***Miracles* Goodwood Ball**

The Goodwood Ball 2014 was again a wonderful event with several new international friends, all of whom are determined to come again. The Live Auction was replaced this year by an electronic auction run for us by IBID which, supplemented by lithographs from our friends at The Broad Gallery, raised in excess of £10,000. The wines, once again generously donated by The Haciendas Company, accompanied a superb dinner. The entertainment was provided by The Andaluz Gypsy Trio with a giant scalectrix operating alongside the Casino in the Yellow Drawing Room. Pictured right is Goodwood's International Events Manager, Paul Goldsmith and his wife, Taeko, enjoying The Haciendas Vintage Pink Cava during the Reception on their way to view the Goodwood Art Treasures. They were accompanied by their daughter, Hannah, and son, Noah: The age group was even younger this year!!!

ON SATURDAY 15th MARCH 2014
From 12 Noon to 2.00 pm
**MIRACLES will be 'AT HOME' at
THE ANGMERING-on-SEA BEACH HOUSE**
South Strand, Angmering-on-Sea,
West Sussex BN16 1PN
(by courtesy of Caroline Bond and
www.luxurybeachhouserental.com)

We would love you to join us for drinks and canapés and
to hear more about *Miracles*' work for children
in the shadow of poverty and terminal illness...
including our upcoming fundraising event at
Goodwood House on 7th June 2014.

It is also an opportunity to experience the luxury
synonymous with Caroline Bond's holiday homes which she
generously gives as prizes for *Miracles*' fundraising events.

RSVP: Theo Ellert at miracles@fastnet.co.uk Tel. 01903 775673
Miracles is a registered charity No. 1041449
www.miraclescharity.org



***Miracles* Riverboat Party**

On a glorious Saturday in June we took 150 of our *Miracles*' families on a Riverboat outing on the Thames Riverboat 'Hurlingham'. The families came from Tower Hamlets alongside a few of our special friends from Littlehampton and a great time was had by all. A magnificent tea was laid on and the versatile entertainer, 'Chuckles' kept the children totally enraptured, while others had their faces painted by our own Caseworker, Michelle Leonard. It was a truly great day out, creating lots of memories to treasure.



***Miracles*' Twentieth Anniversary Fundraising Dinner**

The Rosewood Hotel in London's High Holborn, nominated by Telegraph Travel as The Best New Hotel in the World, was the venue chosen to celebrate Twenty Years of *Miracles* on 22nd November 2014 in true Twenties style. A magnificent evening paying tribute to *Miracles*' work over the years, the event was organised by Trustee, Silvia Gil-Alberdi and her amazing friends and was attended by 250 very special and very generous guests, raising a total profit of £100,000. Here's to the next twenty years!



FIFTY CHILDREN FIFTY ARTISTS

Painting a Brighter Future

Fifty Children Fifty Artists was launched by *Miracles* last year in Tower Hamlets to raise awareness of child poverty there (the highest rate in the UK at over 50%) and to alleviate the suffering of those facing poverty as well as sickness and other life crises.



The paintings have now been commissioned and the first preview of some of them was held in September at the Hammersmith Headquarters of one of the project's supporters, Winton Capital.

Left: Marie-Antoinette Pereire, Theo Ellert and James Burton. Right: Shahel (16); Inset is his painter: Thea Penna.

Several of the artists attended the Private View (wine by courtesy of The Haciendas) along with a very special guest, Shakira, who attended with her parents to view her beautiful portrait.



Shakira and her parents with her portrait by Robbie Wraith RP



Beatrice (13) By Gerald Scarfe



Nihad (5) by Andrew Sidalgo The first of the paintings to be sold.



Shayma (15) By Nick Offer

The first London public exhibition is scheduled to run from Monday 23rd to Friday 27th March 2015 at Shoreditch Town Hall where the portraits will be on sale along with signed original postcards. You can sneak a preview on the project's website at www.fiftychildrenfiftyartists.com - the website created for *Miracles* by the company, Harkable.

The project is a celebration of Tower Hamlets and the children who live there. Our goal is to raise over £300,000 in sponsorship and donations—from corporate sponsorship, private donations and other initiatives such as Fifty Restaurants. The money raised will go directly towards *Miracles*' work in Tower Hamlets over the next two years.

As part of the project, one of the 50-50 sponsors, Citi Bank, gave a weekend of their time to completely repaint and refurbish the Whitechapel Road Citizens Advice Bureau—one of *Miracles*' principle referral partners in the area. Encouraging local companies like Citi Bank to involve themselves in our work and the local community is central to the project's focus.

And a tremendous boost to the project is the backing of Eaton Square School at which three of Trustee, Silvia Gil-Alberdi's children are pupils. The school has adopted *Miracles* as their charity for the next two years and one of their first events was the Year Six Christmas Cake Stall. This was an initiative the children devised themselves and it raised £283. Well done Year Six!



The school's major fundraiser this year is at The Savoy Hotel on 20th March 2015, organised by the school's PTA co-chaired by Amy Moravec and Julian Frohn.

Amongst the prizes on the evening is a Safari, a holiday to Monte Carlo, and an original portrait by artist, Emma Sergeant as her contribution to the 50 Children 50 Artists Project for *Miracles*' work in Tower Hamlets.

Pictured above—left to right: Ally Frohn; Laura Moravec; Carolina Abdo; Jake Rekrut (note the *Miracles* cap!); Caroline Bay.

We can't end child poverty on our own but with your help we can be part of the solution

MIRACLES MISSION IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA



The *Miracles*' Centre in Bosnia continues its great work.

This past year thirty one new limbs have been made and fitted, making a total of 214 since the Centre began.

The number of corrections was sixty-seven, a total of 495 over the years—in addition to the many insoles and orthotic devices needed.

Our commitment to training local people in the art of prosthetics is still very much in our minds. To this end, our Prosthetist, Nihad Subasic and his assistant, Amel Mrkonjic, always welcome those interested in the intricacy of the art. Marc Pereire, for instance, during the Pereire's visit in June, spent several days watching their complicated and precise working methods.

The *Miracles* Centre Team was also delighted to welcome a group of Physiotherapy Students from Mostar University for hands-on experience in our Clinic. (See Right)



Below are a few of the cases treated at The *Miracles*' Centre during the past year:



Becir Besic was born in Prozor in 1970. During the war he was a refugee in Jablanica and returned to his pre-war home a few years ago. Becir lost his leg in an accident while working as a forester. He is married with four children and now, since getting his new leg, he is able to drive a tractor and work alongside his wife producing fruits and vegetables. That is their only source of income.



Alen Tikvesa was born in Konjic in 1969. His foot was wounded in the war and in terrible pain he spent twenty years in bed, unable to move on his own. Last year the foot was amputated and since then he has spent three months receiving treatment at the *Miracles* Centre on a daily basis learning to walk again. Alen says: "I am a new person again, born again the day I got my prosthesis. Thanks to *Miracles* I can now live like a human being again!"



Ivan Cubela was born in Mostar in 1968. He won't talk about the war or the way he lost his leg. He is having deep emotional and psychological trauma and needs help in many different ways. After his treatment at the *Miracles* Centre he was able to walk and get a job as a welder. Things in Ivan's life have now moved on for the better.



Eldar Voloder, is one of our new-old patients. He was born without the leg and now needs a new limb twice a year. He is a happy, positive 12-year-old and very grateful for *Miracles* assistance enabling him, now, to play football for his school team.



Zrinka Raic is a 42 year old lady from Mostar city.

She is a single lady who lives on her own and lost her leg five years ago due to illness. She is unemployed and exists on the minimum state pension. She does not have any family members but relies on neighbours to help her with her daily life routine.

La Fondation *MIRACLES* Suisse is dedicated to supporting the *Miracles* Centre. Its 2014 fundraising event was organised by Marie-Antoinette Pereire and Ingrid Tissot with a keen and active event committee (see photo right). It took place at The Hotel Richemond in Geneva on 8th November. One hundred guests attended the Dinner and Auction which raised £88,000. **Formidable!**



Among other visitors to the *Miracles* Centre this year, we were delighted to welcome a group from The Jericho Foundation (see photo left) and St. Joseph and The Helpers Charity—our wonderful support partners.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all our friends and supporters without whom the *Miracles* Centre could not operate. Our best wishes are extended to you all.

The Roma Housing and Education Project in Zenica

News from Aida Saric and Andrej Plavsic, the *Miracles*' Team in Zenica:

The *Miracles* Roma Community in Zenica continues to flourish. Our six families now have twenty-nine children and one new baby and all of them are hardworking and caring members of the group, integrating well with each other and with their neighbours in the surrounding areas. Twelve-year-old Leila who is severely paralysed and totally wheelchair-bound is the only one who is not able to go to school while all the others are well disciplined, eager to learn, and doing very well indeed. Some of the older ones have already completed their studies and are now looking and hoping for work.



The older generation are happily and diligently working on improving their houses and cultivating their gardens and the communal grounds where their animals and hens are reared and their many fruit trees thrive.



Project Green Shoots has been a real godsend to our Project in Zenica and we are all deeply grateful to George Hornung for introducing Ampleforth College to the needs of our Roma families and supporting them with the Croquet Tournaments which have funded the first of the Greenhouses. George has now left Ampleforth but we very much hope that the Annual Tournament will continue and that its support will be ongoing. A second greenhouse is very much needed in order to develop a sustainable funding source over the next five years until the *Miracles*' Project comes to its fulfilment.

The families take it in turns to work in the existing greenhouse where the first crop of peppers and tomatoes was most successful. Spinach and lettuces are now being planted and plans for different varieties of fruit and vegetables are in the pipeline.



***Miracles*' heartfelt thanks go to The John Armitage Charitable Trust and The Jericho Foundation for their wonderfully generous and continuing support for our work in Bosnia.**

MIRACLES MISSION HERE AT HOME

Alongside the many cases being referred to us from the Tower Hamlets area, the *Miracles*' net is constantly widening to take in new cases from many different areas of the country and to keep up to date with the families already in our care.



The Eastwoods are old friends of *Miracles*—and very deserving ones. With Darth Vader is Kiel. He is autistic as are his two older brothers known to us as The Split Atoms. Their mother faces huge problems with them and with her own depression which worsened recently when her husband left home. We gave them a break in the school holidays at Canute Cottages on Chichester Harbour which did them all a power of good—well out of the way of curious eyes and disapproving glances.



Another family who enjoyed a holiday at Canute Cottages was the group pictured right. The two older children were both sitters for the 50Children50Artists paintings. They are Carers for their father who has serious health problems and they all live together in very cramped and uncomfortable conditions, continually struggling to feed and clothe themselves. When we offered them a holiday they simply couldn't believe it. They had never had a holiday all together before and the younger ones had never seen the sea – or sand!

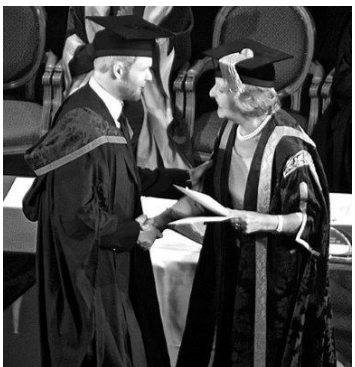


In June we took 150 of our children – from Tower Hamlets and from Littlehampton – on a Riverboat Party down the Thames. It was a glorious day and everyone had a wonderful time with a scrumptious tea, entertainment from Mr. Chuckles the Clown and face-painting by our own Caseworker, Michelle Leonard – whose son, Louis, is running for *Miracles* in the London Marathon 2015.



Ebony is fourteen. Her mother has never had much time for her and most of her childhood memories were of the many evictions from one home after another due to non-payment of rent. The last straw came when the mother's new boyfriend moved in with them. He was heavily on drink and drugs and the mother rapidly went down the same path. Ebony was a bright student but her health and her school work suffered, leading to her school intervening. Soon she was rehoused with an older sister but the sister's only income was from bar work and that barely covered basic food. Ebony had no clothes nor any of the other things teenage girls take for granted. In fact, the only clothes she had was her worn out school uniform. *Miracles* was approached for help by the Social Worker assigned to her case and a shopping spree was quickly arranged.

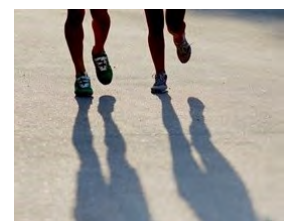
At last Ebony was able to buy herself what clothes she needed as well as the little personal items which make life that bit brighter. Ebony needs a great deal more help but that—at least - was a nice little miracle to begin with.



Christian Lunn has for many years of his childhood been Child Carer for his mum, Berenice, who suffers from chronic leukaemia, and his dad, John, who had long term and serious health and mental problems until he died last year. A brilliant actor and singer, on 26th September, 2014, Christian graduated from University with top achievements in Music and Drama and received his Diploma from Dame Penelope Keith. A proud day for both Christian and his mum! We wish him many miracles in his future career.



Miracles is deeply grateful to all its fundraisers whose pages appear in our Just Giving website. Special thanks must go to Mike Nandra and Kuldip Bansal this year for undertaking The Thames Path Challenge—walking 100K in just 23 hours and raising over £1,100 to fund respite breaks for some very deserving children.



WHO'S WHO IN THE *MIRACLES* CHARITY

Miracles Board of Trustees: Maria Abaroa * Robert and Anna Bean * Joseph Caruso
James Dench * Theo Ellert (Founder) * Silvia Gil-Alberdi * Charles Hornung * Dominic Lynch
Marie-Antoinette Pereire (Chair)

Miracles UK Executive: Robert Linley-Munro (Chief Executive)
James Burton (Project Director) * Deborah Aldridge (Casework Co-ordinator—*sponsored by The Sobell Foundation*)

Miracles Mission in Bosnia: Matthew Procter MBE—Head of Mission
Elvira Dugalic—Trustee Divita-Miracles * Nihad Subasic—Prosthetist

Miracles' Patrons: Christopher Biggins * The Earl of Bradford * Father Michael O'Malley

La Fondation *Miracles* Suisse:

Board of Trustees: Marc and Marie-Antoinette Pereire; Ingrid Tissot;
Pierre-Laurent Bel

Website: www.lafondationmiracles.org

In September our Chair, Marie-Antoinette and her husband Marc Pereire were delighted to entertain *Miracles'* Australian Trustee, Joseph Caruso and his delightful wife, Caroline, during their visit to the UK.



Joining them at a gathering in the Pereire's London home were Trustee, Silvia Gil-Alberdi and her husband Rafael, along with *Miracles'* Founder, Theo Ellert.

Financial Summary taken from the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st October 2014

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

<u>Incoming resources:</u>	Voluntary income:	£208,564
	Fundraising:	£172,144
	Other:	£ 984
		£381,692
<u>Expenditure:</u>	Fundraising:	£ 29,050
	Projects:	£293,653
	Other:	£ 19,255
		£341,958
<u>Net Income</u>	before depreciation and impairments:	£ 39,734

BALANCE SHEET

Tangible Fixed Assets	£613,330
Net current assets	£ 97,020
	£710,350
Represented by the following funds	
Designated funds	£613,330
Other charitable funds	£ 97,020
	£710,350

THE FACE OF *MIRACLES*—2014



Last year's Fundraiser at The Savoy Hotel raised a profit of £80,000. This year's event at The Rosewood has raised almost £100,000 - but we need all of that and more if we are to keep the smiles on our children's faces. Faces like seven-year old Jay—a very special little boy who loves life, is forever smiling and is a blessing to all who know him.

But Jay was born with neurofibromatosis and at two he was diagnosed with an optic pathway glioma on the brain. In June 2012 he was diagnosed with hydrocephalus and at the beginning of 2014 with a further tumour on his other optic nerve. He has been on long-term chemotherapy ever since.

Jay's case was referred to *Miracles* by The Royal Marsden Hospital where his treatment takes place. His Clic-Sargent Social Worker told us how much he needed a few little miracles in his life and asked if we could help.

So between the arduous chemotherapy sessions we are trying to provide those 'few little miracles' - like a few fun days out when he is well enough to enjoy them and a special holiday at Canute Cottages in the Spring.

Like Kier, Jay is another Chelsea Football supporter, so we are grateful once again for the promise of a treat that every young Chelsea supporter would treasure. So watch this space!

Here's how YOU can help us to make more miracles happen

Make a **one-off or regular donation** to help those in *Miracles*' care
Join the **Friends of *Miracles* Support Group** with a monthly donation direct from your bank Include *Miracles* as a **Beneficiary in your Will**.

Support *Miracles*' Gala Events

Volunteer for a *Miracles* Sponsored/Fundraising Event

Set up a **Friends of *Miracles* Support Group** in your area.

Whatever you do will be deeply appreciated

www.miraclesthecharity.org

Registered Charity Number 1041449